AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

No claims are currently being amended. However, included below, for the Examiner's convenience, is a complete list of the claims currently pending:

1-5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Previously amended) A method for obtaining presence information by a first user through a first network, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting, by the first user to a presence proxy, a single subscribe message for presence information of a plurality of second users;

transmitting, by the presence proxy to a plurality of presence agents, a plurality of subscribe messages, each of the plurality of presence agents corresponding to one of the plurality of second users; and

transmitting by the presence proxy a single response message including the presence information of each of the plurality of second users.

7.   (Previously amended) The method for obtaining presence information as claimed in claim 6, wherein there is further included the step of transmitting, by each of the plurality of presence agents to the presence proxy, the presence information corresponding to at least one of the plurality of second users.

8.   (Original) The method for obtaining presence information as claimed in claim 6, wherein there is further included a step of storing by the presence proxy the presence information of each of the plurality of second users.

9.   (Original) The method for obtaining presence information as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of transmitting a single response message includes the steps of:

forming said single response message including the presence information of each of said plurality of second users; and

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transmitting the formed single response message to the first user.

10.   (Original) The method for obtaining presence information as claimed in claim 6, wherein there is further included a step of receiving by the presence proxy at least one response message including presence information from a presence agent located in a second network.

11.   (Previously amended) A method for obtaining presence information by a first user through a first network, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting, by the first user to a presence proxy, a single subscribe message including an identity of a list of a plurality of second users about which presence information is sought;

transmitting, by the presence proxy to presence agents, a plurality of subscribe messages, each of the plurality of subscribe messages corresponding to one of the plurality of second users on the list; and

transmitting, by the presence proxy to the first user, the presence information.

12.   (Previously amended) The method for obtaining presence information as claimed in claim 11 wherein there is further included the step of transmitting, by the presence agents to the presence proxy, presence information concerning each of the plurality of second users.

13.   (Original) The method for obtaining presence information as claimed in claim 12 wherein there is further included the steps of:

combining by the presence proxy the presence information from the presence agents to produce a combined response message; and

transmitting the combined response message to the first user.

14.   (Original) The method for obtaining presence information as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of transmitting by the first user an identity of a list includes the step of

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indicating by the first user the identity of one of a plurality of lists of second users for which to obtain presence information.

15.   (Original) The method for obtaining presence information as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of transmitting a plurality of subscribe messages includes the step of transmitting at least one subscribe message to a second user in a second network.

16-20. (Cancelled)

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